THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has sanctioned installation of Second Sandzimir Mill at Salem Steel Plant on 2nd March, 1988. The Second mill will enable utilisation of a dormant investment of about Rs. 75 crores.

(c) There would be additional production of 38,000 tonnes of stainless steel sheets/coils.

Development of Meerut as a Priority Town of NCR

2599. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when the decision to develop Meerut district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh, as a priority town of the National Capital Region, with the purpose of reducing inflow of migrants to Delhi, was taken by the National Capital Region Planning Board;

(b) what is the respective share of the Central Government and the Uttar Pradesh Government for the development of this priority town and what is the actual/amount of financial assistance released by the Central Government and the U.P. Government, so far;

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be implemented in view of the progress made so far in this direction; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to accelerate implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The decision to develop Meerut as a priority town of the National Capital Region was taken in August, 1986 in the Interim Development Plan of the NCR Planning Board.

(b) Since the Board came into existence in 1985 an amount of Rs. 3.5 cr. was released by the NCR Planning Board for the projects in Meerut during 1985-86 and 1986-87. The corresponding amount released by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is being collected from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

(c) and (d) The on-going projects are expected to be implemented by the end of the Seventh Plan.

Amendment to Pulses, Edible oils and Edible oilseeds (Storage and Control) Order

2600. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of recent amendments made to the Pulses, Edible Oils and Edible Oilseeds (Storage and Control) Order regarding reduction of stock limits and imposition of restrictions will be detrimental to consumers' interests as it will ultimately lead to shortages;

(b) whether Government are aware that the needs of the consumers can be met and price rise checked effectively only by augmenting supplies in the market; and

(c) what were the compelling circumstances for Government to impose such restrictions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) In the wake of the drought situation and because of low stocks of pulses and edible oils, certain amendments to the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977 were introduced to prevent hoarding of these commodities through imposing (i) restriction on transactions between the wholesalers; (ii) time limit for disposal of stocks by wholesalers; and (iii) reducing the stock limits of pulses to be held by wholesalers and retailers.

Subsequently, in view of the increased availability of these commodities due to the arrival of fresh crops in the market and because of imports, these amendments were withdrawn w.e.f. 26th February, 1988.

Shortage of quality seeds

2601. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the quality seeds requirements for cereals, oilseeds, pulses, wheat and rice is being met stating the reasons for low availability of quality seeds;

(b) what is the cost price incurred by the National Seeds Corporation in the production of quality seeds and the prices at which these are being sold to the farmers stating the percentage of profit margin;

(c) what according to the assessment, if any, is the percentage of low farm output because of poor quality seeds; and

(d) whether Government propose to formulate a clear cut seed policy to provide adequate quantity of quality seeds to the farmers at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) During 1986-87, quality seed requirements of cereals like wheat, paddy, jowar, bajra and ragi have been adequately met. There has been some shortage of quality seeds of maize. In case of quality seeds of oilseeds and pulses seed requirement was met to the extent of 95.7 per cent and 83.3 per cent respectively.

(b) The cost of certified seed production and its sale price by National Seeds Corporation alongwith percentage of profit/loss is given below:

Crop	Average cost of production during 1986-87*	Average sale price during 1987-88**	Percentage of profit/loss
Cereal	(Rs. per qtl.)	(Rs. per qtl.)	
Wheat	464	425	(–) 8.40
Rice (Paddy)	456	430	(—) 5.70
Maize	533	650	(+)21.95
Sorghum	1035	975	(—) 5.80
Bajra	797	1000	(+)25.47
Pulses	953	1150	(+)20.67
Oilseeds	969	1200	(+)23.82

*Ex-godown price– not including selling and distribution expense.

**Average sale price represents the price of seeds of those crops which account for maximum quantum of sale within the varieties of a given crop.